Division Course Syllabus

Division: Humanities
Course Prefix and Number: ENGL 2313

Course Title: English Literature to 1798
Semester and Year Submitted: Revised Spring 2015
Credit Hours: 3

Prepared by: Kevin Caliendo

Hours Per Week: Class 3  Lab 0

Course Description (as it appears in Catalog)
A survey course covering British literature from the Anglo-Saxon beginnings to 1798. May be taken as Humanities credit for General Education requirements. Prerequisite: ENGL 1213 or equivalent

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Text(s):

Author: Greenblatt, et al., Eds.
Publisher: W.W. Norton Company
Copyright Date: 2012
ISBN#: 978-0393913002
Reading Level: 12th grade

Supplemental Materials: (other books, audio visual aids, etc.)
Used at instructor's discretion, but may include appropriate supplemental reading, films, and web content on individual authors or literary phenomena as well as lectures, oral reports and discussion.

RATIONALE:

In a world in which a student is expected to be philosophical as well as practical, a division within a particular institution must provide courses that address themselves to both demands. From a practical point of view, this literature course meets the requirements for three types of students.

For the prospective English major, at least one literary survey is suggestive as an elective; for other majors, either course may serve as partial fulfillment of the general education requirements for humanities. For the prospective student of literature, this course would provide general background for more intensive and specialized literary study in later courses. For this student, this course would also present an overall view of the changing theories of literature, the
development of literary movements, school and types, and the thought and art of British writers as the expression of the cultural heritage of England.

The non-major also will benefit from this course because it is a comprehensive study that acquaints the student with the range of English literature through a study of those whose creative imaginations have been a force in shaping the English literary tradition, culture, and history. This not to suggest that only major writers who have made significant contributions to the literary history or the development of a particular genre will be covered.

Obviously, such a course also, and perhaps most importantly, aids the student to look realistically at himself/herself in the search for self-awareness and to more fully understand the past and present in their relationship to the future.

OBJECTIVES:

The assessments in this course include discussion boards, quizzes, essays, a presentation and a final exam. These activities are structured to measure your progress in achieving our course objectives. Upon completion of ENGL 2313, students will be able to

1. Identify themes, forms, and literary techniques characteristic of the medieval and Renaissance periods.
2. Explain major linguistic developments in the history of the English language.
3. Apply principles of textual studies and/or digital humanities to the manuscript and print history of a literary work.
4. Analyze early English literary figures and works in their historical context.
5. Assess social, religious, and economic factors that influence authors and manifest in their works.

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

Methods of instruction may vary with individual instructors. Instructors are encouraged to explain their methods at the beginning of each course. The following methods of instruction may be used in order to accomplish the stated objectives: Lectures, and audio-visual presentations, guest lecturers, individual research and library work, oral and/or written reports, class discussion, individual conference, investigating cross-disciplinary resources, journals or other written responses to literature, exams and quizzes.

EVALUATION:

Student evaluation methods vary with instructor and may include the following:

1. Objective and essay quizzes and exams
2. Written work such as discussion boards, reports, research papers, journal and response writing
3. Oral work such as class participation and reports
4. Research project
5. At least 20 pages of credited writing for assessment, inquiry, learning, thinking, and/or communication. (These pages may include but are not limited to the following: journals, exploratory writing, and discussion board postings, etc.)

Learning Objectives:

Unit 1 – Old English (Expected Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5)
1. Identify course rationale, objectives and procedures for evaluation.
2. Discuss means and methods of literary analysis.
3. Identify passages in Old English (in the original) and explore the differences between Old and Modern English.
5. Identify and explain the social, religious, philosophical, and economic forces affecting the literature of the period.

Unit 2 – King Arthur (Expected Outcomes 1, 3, 4, and 5)
1. Analyze representative selections from the Arthurian tradition such as Sir Gawain and the Green Knight and Morte d’Arthur.
2. Identify and explain the social, religious, philosophical, and economic forces affecting the literature of the period.
3. Compare depictions of chivalry with the warrior ethic of literature from the Old English period.

Unit 3 – Chaucer (Expected Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
1. Analyze selections of The Canterbury Tales and discuss the generic conventions employed by Chaucer in these works.
2. Identify and explain the social, religious, philosophical, and economic forces affecting the literature of the 14th century.
3. Compare passages in Old and Middle English and discuss the differences.

Unit 4: Medieval Drama and Renaissance Lyric (Expected Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5)
1. Analyze representative examples of medieval drama and Renaissance Lyric.
2. Identify and explain the social, religious, philosophical, and economic forces affecting the literature of the period.
3. Compare elements of medieval drama with classical drama.
4. Define elements of syntax and grammar in Early Modern English.

Unit 5: Renaissance Drama and Epic (Expected Outcomes 1, 3, 4, and 5)
1. Analyze representative Shakespeare plays.
2. Discuss characteristics of Renaissance drama in reference to departures from Medieval drama studied in Unit 4.
3. Analyze epic poetry in the early Modern period with particular attention to classical allusions and exemplars.
4. Identify and explain the social, religious, philosophical, and economic forces affecting the literature of the period.
Unit 6: Swift and 18th Century Poetry (Expected Outcomes 1, 3, 4, and 5)

1. Analyze satirical representations in the work of Jonathan Swift.
2. Analyze selected poetry of Cowper, Thompson, and Gray, emphasizing the drift toward Romanticism.
3. Identify and explain the social, religious, philosophical, and economic forces affecting the literature of the period.